

HINGES and TONGS

an RPA newsletter

Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc.

FOUNDED 1913

May / June 1992

Meetings held the second and fourth Thursdays, Sept. through June at St. Pauls' Episcopal Church, East Ave. at Vick Park B. Starts at 8pm.

SPECIAL EDITION

This issue of the Hinges and Tongs has been sent to all ROPEX-92 visitors requesting more information about the Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc.

NOMINATIONS

The nominations of officers for the 1992-1993 have been opened. Anyone interested in running for an office should throw their hat in the ring now. So far we have no contested seats. The list of nominees at the time of publication are:

For President:

Bernice R. Watson

For Vice-president:

Norman E. Wright, Sr.

For Treasurer:

James M. Trenton

For Recording Secretary:

Michael H. Fader

For Corresponding Secretary:

Joseph K. Doles

One seat on the Board of
Governors:

Dusty Miller

A ballot will be sent to all RPA members later in May in time to be returned in time for the June business meeting on the 11th.

PROGRAMS

MAY 14th

Ada Prill

"Name That Stamp"

May 28th

Norman Wright

"Computerize Your
Stamp Collection"

June 11th

Annual Business Meeting and
Election of Officers

June 25th

Kiloware Night (feel free to
bring your dupes to add to the pot)
Strawberry Festival

NOTE:

A silent auction is always a part of the evenings program except on the nights that a called auction is scheduled.

Each RPA member can submit up to seven (7) lots.

Doors open at 7:00pm. Come early and enjoy the fun talking with other collectors. Programs start at 8:00pm sharp.

THE ROCHESTER PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, INC. HISTORY

The RPA was organized on March 12, 1913. The first meetings were held in the Hotel Rochester by eleven members. Later meetings were held at the Municipal Museum. During World War One, membership dwindled to five members and meetings were held in their homes. When membership again increased, meetings were held at a local stamp dealer's shop. The RPA then migrated to the Public Library, the Edgerton Park Museum, the Bausch Museum of Arts and Sciences, and in 1976 moved to St. Paul's Church on East Ave.

Over the 78 years of existence and about 1400 meetings, a wide variety of programs have been featured. These activities include speakers, movies, slide talks, exhibits, swap nights and auctions. Much knowledge on the hobby of stamp collecting is still available to the members through the extensive library kept by the RPA. Bus trips, picnics, and an annual dinner-auction are the activities of the RPA.

Early exhibitions of the RPA were local affairs, but during the 1930's and 40's, shows were held in conjunction with the Rochester Museum. In 1950, the RPA assisted in the formation of the Niagara Frontier Federation of Stamp Clubs. This group and the Central New York

Federation of Stamp Clubs with the RPA put on exhibitions of international quality.

The year 1963 was the Golden Jubilee of the RPA. A show of over 700 frames was held in Rochester's new Midtown Plaza. This show paved the way for subsequent large exhibitions and bourse such as TOPEX-67 and APS-68. It was at APS-68 that the RPA inaugurated the World Series of Philately, now known as the Champion of Champions Show. The ROPEX title was initiated in 1971. The RPA has hosted such organizations as the American Philatelic Congress, the Society of Philatelic Americans, and the American Topical Association.

This background of the Rochester Philatelic Association provides appropriate credentials for the RPA to host

ROPEX

THE ROCHESTER PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION MEETS EVERY SECOND AND FOURTH THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH EXCEPT JULY AND AUGUST. THE RPA IS PROUD SPONSOR OF "ROPEX", A CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS NATIONAL STAMP SHOW.

*Rochester Philatelic Association, Inc.
Annual Banquet & Auction*

*Bosdyke's Party House
430 Spencerport Road
at Long Pond Road*

*Saturday June 6, 1992
Cocktails at 6pm
Dinner at 7pm*

*Prime Rib
\$17.50
Veal Parmesan
\$16.50
Broiled White Fish
\$14.00*

*Reservations & Payment by
May 23, 1992
Send check made to RPA Banquet to:
Brad Sterling
PO Box 18606
Rochester, N.Y. 14618*

Anyone wanting their lots written up in the auction description sheets must send the descriptions to Brad Sterling when making reservations no later than May 23, 1992. Up to seven lots per person. 10% of the selling price goes to the RPA treasury.

U.S. Privately Overprinted Stamps
by Tom Fortunato

An incident back in 1977 caused the U.S. Postal Service to review and clarify its regulations on privately overprinted stamps.

It began with the release of the 13¢ stamp to honor the 50th anniversary of Charles Lindbergh's historic flight. It was inscribed simply as "50th Anniversary Solo Transatlantic Flight" without Lindbergh's name, as his death in 1974 could not allow his personal commemoration on a stamp before 1984 by U.S.P.S. laws. Consideration was given to make an exception in this case due to its historical importance but nothing came of it.

There was much discussion in the philatelic press about the matter. To satisfy the public outcry, one Florida stamp dealer decided to overprint a large number of sheets with "CHARLES A. LINDBERGH" beneath the plane and "SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS" in the upper left corner of each stamp. His plans were to sell these stamps as "mint" and also create covers with them. As it is illegal to tamper with any U.S. government issued monetary device, this raised some legal concerns, including the right to free speech.

The dealer's lawyer made an inquiry which caused the Postal Service to change the wording of the code on the subject. Simply put, any non-official overprint on a mint stamp

[continued on next page]

invalidates its postal value. The dealer was left with stamps of only a souvenir nature.

This brings up an interesting point. Philatelic organizations or individuals can create their own overprints and use them postally if they overprint every other stamp. Of course one loses the value of the overprinted stamp but when used as a setenent pair the value of the untouched stamp remains valid for postage. Strips or blocks could have one or multiple overprints. Any stamp from 1¢ on up can be treated this way.

I have never seen stamps used like this but I'm sure that someone has thought of this before now. It would certainly be an interesting and unique way for a stamp club to raise money! ■

Stamp collectors gather in Rochester

1,000 philatelists attend Exhibition-92

By Emil Venere
Democrat and Chronicle

Philatelists from as far as Australia and Washington state came to Rochester's Holiday Inn/Genesee Plaza this weekend.

The stamp collectors came to show their stuff, in a prelude to the "World Series of Philately" this summer in California.

"This is a truly national show," said Ada M. Prill, referring to the three-day Rochester Philately Exhibition-92, which started 10 a.m. Friday and ended 5 p.m. yesterday.

Prill, exhibit chairwoman of the stamp show, dressed for the occasion, donning earrings fashioned into stamps bearing Alaska's state bird and flower.

Her T-shirt was adorned with a print of the first U.S. commemorative stamp — a 2-cent tableau of Christopher Columbus and his fellow explorers issued in 1892, celebrating the 400th anniversary of his New World discovery.

"Our show this year commemorates the 500th anniversary, so I thought it would be neat to wear a shirt showing a stamp commemorating the 400th anniversary," she said yesterday.

More than 6,000 pages of stamps were displayed during the show, which attracted 47 exhibitors and at least 1,000 viewers, despite the weekend's snowy weather.

"We are getting to be a better known show," she said.

And that only stands to reason. After all, the first-ever World Series of Philately was held in Rochester, Sept. 19, 1968, said Larry Moriarty, president of the Rochester Philatelic Association.

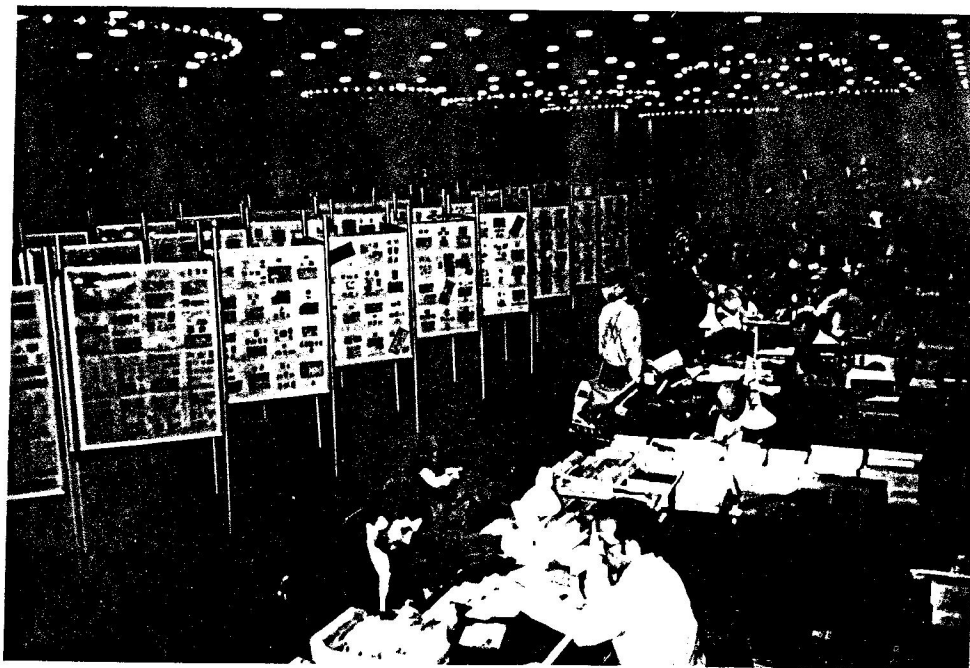
Next year's show, starting March 26, will mark the 25th anniversary of the city's philately tradition.

"It started here in Rochester, the World Series of Philately," said proud stamp collector Norman Wright Sr., of Brighton.

He noted that the term philately, derived from a French word, loosely means that the postage is duty free. Before postage stamps were invented by the British in the mid-19th century, mail recipients had to pay cash-on-delivery for their letters, Wright said.

For eight hours on Friday, five national philatelic judges and two apprentices — referred to as a jury — reviewed the 47 entries to the show. After careful deliberations, they awarded this year's "grand award" to G.H. Davis, of Cincinnati, who will carry Rochester's torch in the world series event, also referred to as the Champion of Champions competition, Aug. 27 in Oakland, Calif.

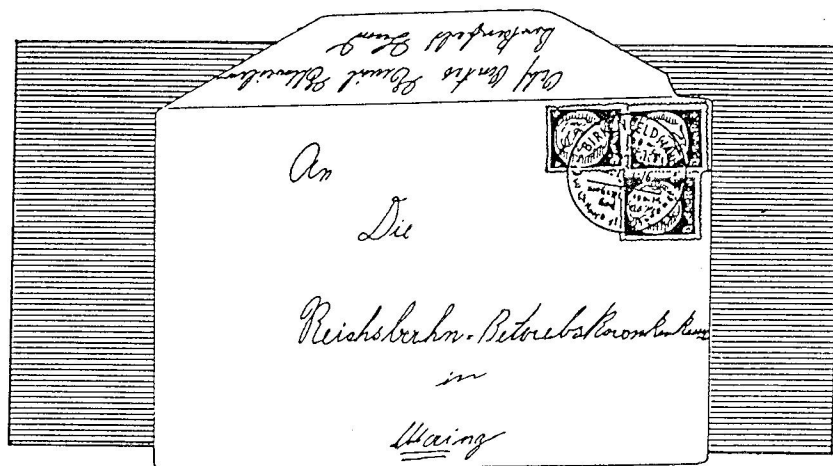
The California contest will feature the winners of 34 stamp shows held across the nation sanctioned by the American Philatelic Society.



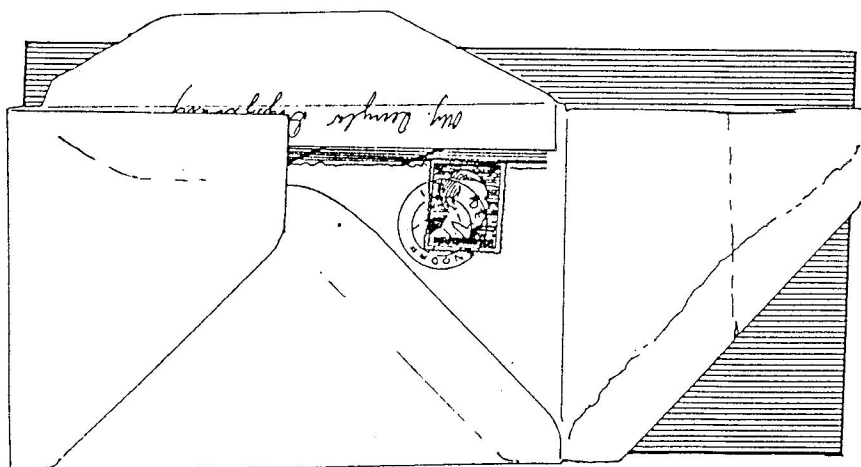


A philatelic cover is one that was created with a philatelic purpose in mind. It may or may not have gone through the mailstream. On the philatelic cover shown, a collector affixed the entire set of eleven 1937 Newfoundland definitives, greatly overpaying needed postage.

↑ from Linn's Stamp Collecting Made Easy ↓



Turned cover: In periods of paper shortage, it was a common practice to reuse envelopes. Some people took a used envelope apart and refolded it so the inside became the outside. Illustrated is the front of a turned cover used in Germany during World War II.



The reverse side of the cover illustrated above. One side has been loosened and folded back to show the stamp from the original cover on the inside. A severe shortage of paper in the Confederacy during the American Civil War also resulted in turned covers.

1991 — year of the F-Stamp controversy

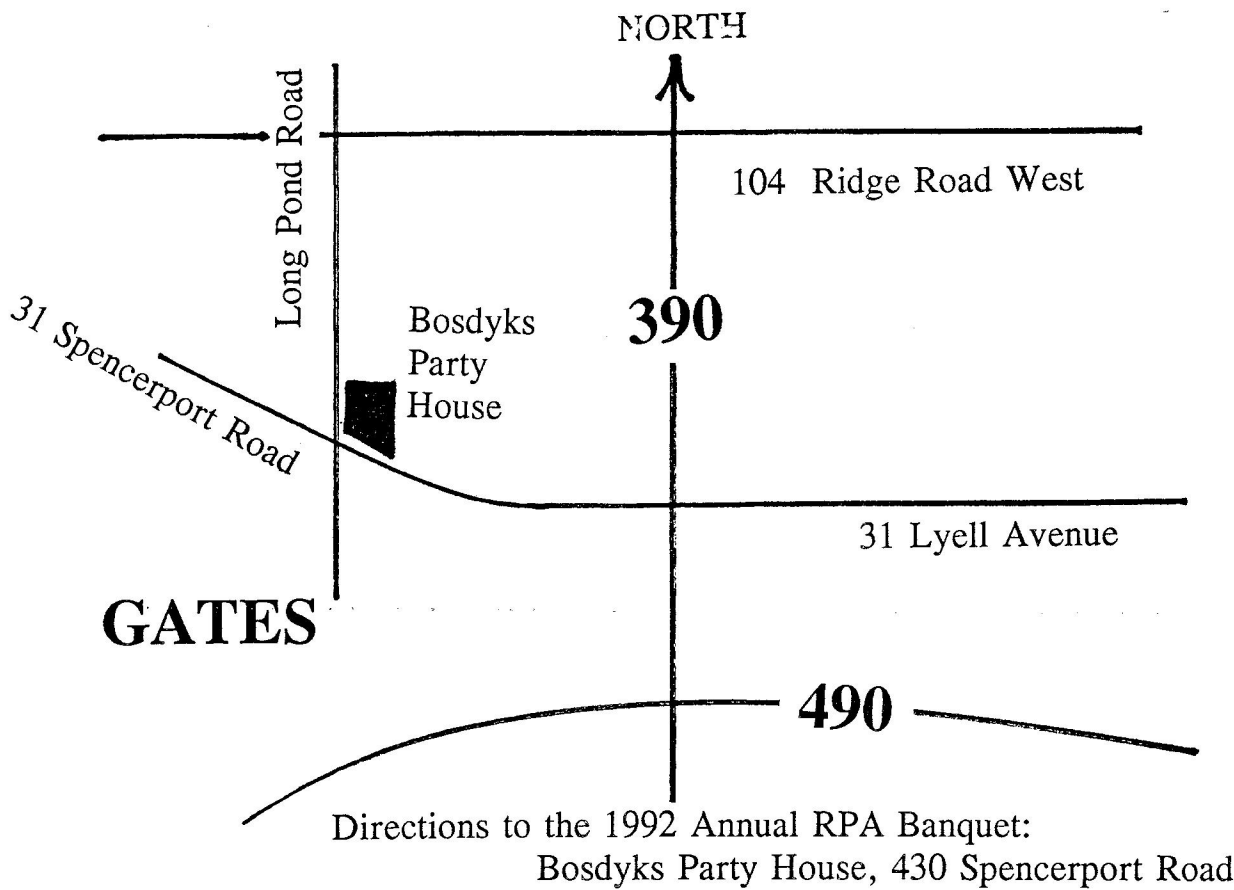
Due to different formats and printers, there were five different F-Stamps issued in 1991! Four of the F-Stamps were the pretty Flower design, the fifth was the plastic ATM stamp, and there was also a 4¢ rate make-up stamp — the first time a stamp was printed with copy only! The BEP (Bureau of Engraving and Printing) as well as private printing firms produced the F-Stamps, making quite a variety of stamps! The "F" sheets were printed by U.S. Banknote Co., the "F" coils by the BEP, and the "F" booklets by both the BEP and KCS Industries. The plastic ATM stamp was printed by Avery, and the make-up stamp by American Banknote Co.!

↑ from Mystic's U.S. Stamp Catalog ↓

"Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night..."

You're probably familiar with the motto of the postal carriers, which is found inscribed on the New York City Main Post Office: "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds". The actual words were rendered by architect William Mitchell Kendall. However, he based the motto on words by the Greek historian Herodotus back in the 4th Century B.C.

Herodotus was speaking of the swift Persian messengers, who he said "travel with a velocity which nothing human can equal. Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor darkness, are permitted to obstruct their speed."



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The RPA is a chapter member of the APS and the AFDCS